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TCU alumna Morgan Qualls shows her Horned Frogs spirit all the way down to her Nocona cowboy boots. The Horned Frogs, rookies at the College World Series, are the fan favorites this week, even when they lose.

## Underdog TCU is pretty in purple

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« College World Series

They've won a game and lost a game, but the TCU Horned Frogs are still the unquestioned "hot" team in Omaha.

Is it the distinctive mascot? The "claw" sign their fans make with their hands? The fact that they're first-timers? Maybe it's because they beat Texas in the super regional.

Whatever the reason, the school from Fort Worth, Texas, with just less than 9,000 students, the smallest at the College World Series, has the largest following.

Throughout the first few days of the CWS, the place has been crawling with purple people. On Saturday, the opening night of the CWS, fan support clearly was behind the Frogs in an 8-1 win over Florida State. Things didn't go as well on the field Monday night in a 6-3 loss to UCLA, but the Frog-backers were still out in force.

Take Jake McDonald and his two friends, all wearing purple Horned Frogs baseball T-shirts purchased from an Omaha vendor. The 24-year-old from Monmouth, Ill., had no affiliation with any CWS teams but is pulling for TCU.

"I like the small school, the underdog, and it's their first time here," he said. "It makes it easy to root for them."

TCU gear has been the hot seller at Event 1, a merchandise store in the Rosenblatt Stadium parking lot.

"For all the locals, it's the novelty of a new school that hasn't been here, so they're latching onto them," said Tom Ell, merchandise and operations manager.

Longtime TCU fans have noticed the welcoming environment.

"Even people who don't go to TCU have asked for our picture," said Jocelyn Caliel, a 20-year-old TCU student. "TCU is a really small school. Everybody knows everybody. This is such a big atmosphere."

For Kathy Schuvle, the Horned Frogs' first CWS couldn't have been timed more perfectly.

The 19-year-old TCU freshman is hosting at least a dozen Horned Frogs friends in her Omaha home, many of whom came at the last minute.

"It is a mini hotel right now, and who knows when everyone is leaving?" Schuvle said.

If the Horned Frog baseball team has its way, not until at least the middle of next week.